



**NORTHWEST REGIONAL  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**  
FIRST JOB | NEXT JOB | BEST JOB

**YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

**Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 8:00 AM**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81619129455?pwd=Sm9paXlJdzNPL2hYaHI3RjR3UEtJZz09>

**Meeting ID: 816 1912 9455**

**Passcode: 456118**

**Dial by your location**

**+1 646 931 3860 US**

**+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)**

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- 1. Approval of minutes from the meeting before last that took place on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**
  - 2. Approval of minutes from the last Youth Committee Meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023.**
  - 3. Recap of The Youth Wellness Fair event from April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**
  - 4. Update on the upcoming summer youth programs.**
  - 5. Other Business**
  - 6. Adjournment**



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**YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 8:00 AM**  
**In Person at the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board**  
**249 Thomaston Avenue,**  
**Waterbury, CT**

**In Attendance:** Chief Fernando Spagnolo, Diane G. Teixeira, Luis Leon, Tracy Mahar, Stephen Barbieri, Heather Pelletier, Charlaïne stcharles, Kim Gioia, Susan Domanico, Terrance Cunningham, Stephen Romano, Klaus Babiarz, Michelle Caffè, Quesha Rogers, Jason McKoy, Jessie Deponte, Maggie Sullivan, Delia Demaio, Olivia Dudley, Reshaun Bennett, Julia Frohlich.

**Also in Attendance:** C. Awwad, B. Coatta, J. Shabazz, Nina Lombardi.

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**1- Welcome and introductions**

Chief Spagnolo opened the meeting at 08:00 am and welcomed everyone present as well as the presenters on Zoom.

**2- Approval of Youth Committee Meeting Minutes from August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

Motion to approve was made by Klaus Babiarz and Seconded by S. Romano.

Motion carried.

**3- 8:10 AM: National Youth Employment Coalition presentation about youth employment programs' capacity to address mental needs.**

Ms. Awwad introduced the two presenters Rashaun Bennett who is the Director of Operations and Julia Frohlich who is a Communications and Membership Coordinator,

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both from the National Youth Employment Coalition, whose mission is to improve the lives of millions of young people who are out of school and out of work.

During the presentation, significant points were touched upon, identifying gaps in youth employment programs' capacity to address mental health needs.

The duo emphasized the mental health stigma that still handicaps the advancement of the youth, they spoke about the stress factors and different barriers. They also proposed that employers could create a culture of support and work directly with workforce programs to understand the youth's realities.

Steps were listed on how workforce partners could forge relationships with mental health providers.

The presenters answered some questions about the importance of community resources, peer counseling, and family mediation to name a few.

Some of the recommendations were appointing mental health leaders/providers to the local workforce boards and youth committees to bring new perspectives and foster better access, connection, and troubleshooting.

Luis Leon and Delia Dimaio both young students were present to share their personal stories about their struggles and how they could contribute towards solutions, they spoke about peer advice's importance, as well as the effects of the mental health stigma on the LGBTQ young community.

Doctor Jalil Shabazz added that we must take into consideration multiculturalism because if we can create the right environment, it will help avoid withdrawal.

#### **4- Other Business**

No other business was conducted.

#### **5- Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by K. Babiarz and seconded by S. Romano at 9:09 Am.

Motion carried.



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## **YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 21st, 2023, at 8:00 AM**

**In-person: 249 Thomaston Ave, Waterbury CT 60702**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84983565330?pwd=MXFldXpiVExMMY8vL0pXRWR6MWIEdz09>

**Meeting ID: 849 8356 5330    Passcode: 651762**

**Attendees: Chief Fernando Spagnolo, Enitza Morris, Jim Orourke, Gianna Falotico, Diane Cassidy, Diane G. Teixeira, Frances Hardy, Heather Pelletier, Jesse Daponte, Kim Gioia, Klaus Babiarz, Luis Leon-Colon, Quesha Rogers, Sarah Skawinski, Stephen Romano, Steve Barbieri, Sue Domanico, Amanda Pratte, Julie Schmitter, Karen Mello, Maria L. Gonzalez, Mary Morrone, Madison Blanchard, Stephanie knight, Olivia Dudley, Ronae Mason-Craig, Tracy Mahar.**

Also in attendance: **Cathy Awwad, Jalil Shabazz, Amy Fellows, Jay Dunn, Nina Lombardi.**

### **1. Welcome and introductions.**

Chief Spagnolo called the meeting to order at 08:00 am and welcomed attendees.

CEO C. Awwad welcomed all attendees and updated the summer youth programs vendors on new dates and budgets. She shared that the governor's allocated budget to the summer youth programs has increased from 5 to 15 million dollars, adding that the workforce boards have been offering youth different opportunities and will exceedingly continue to do so if the allocated funds remain available solely to the boards.

### **2. Approval of the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting's minutes**

Minutes are to be provided for approval during the next quarterly meeting that will take place on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **3. Update on the planning of April's Youth & Wellness Fair**

- **Volunteers**
- **Transportation**
- **Flyer distribution and outreach**
- **Booth's registration**



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C. Awwad brought attention to the fact that the flyer has been completed and encouraged getting it heavily distributed prior to the event to reach more registrants. She added that the flyer has a QR code that takes one directly to the Google registration form which will be closed once we reach 150 youth by a certain date.

C. Awwad advised that the event would need 25 to 40 people for the financial literacy reality fair part, from 12:15 PM to 3 PM. Volunteers are to register by adding their names to the spreadsheet link that was distributed via email and the Outlook invite.

C. Awwad informed that Jay Dunn will chronicle the experience of a couple of youth navigating the event, as well as what took to organize it.

Agencies willing to have a booth during the fair were encouraged to register with Nina Lombardi. She also informed that the gift cards that were donated by Pastor Reese are to be purchased asap and logged for audit purposes. Transportation is to be organized as registrants' list grows showing their area of residence, then vans will be arranged for pick ups from inside and outside of Waterbury.

Concerning Summer Youth Applications, prior years participants of the summer youth program are to be encouraged to re-enlist again this summer for the July 5<sup>th</sup> start, a YouTube video tutorial on how to complete the application will be ready and up on [www.nrwib.org](http://www.nrwib.org) in two weeks time.

Chief Spagnolo confirmed sharing the flyer with different agencies and involving some media channels as well.

C. Awwad thanked everyone involved and confirmed that biweekly meetings are scheduled to keep organizing the fair and keeping everyone updated.

#### **4. Other Business**

No other business was conducted.

#### **5. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by S. Barbieri and seconded by S. Romano at 8:30 Am. Motion carried.